

Claims

1. A method for providing Internet access to a client computer system, comprising:

providing a digital broadcast transmission system for wireless delivery of digital content to said client computer system, said digital broadcast transmission system including at least first and second broadcast origination points,

providing a host computer system connected to said digital broadcast transmission system,

establishing a connection between said host computer system and said client computer system,

delivering a request for content from said client computer system to said host computer system,

obtaining delivery of requested content via the public Internet to said host computer system,

transferring said requested content to a selected one of said first and second broadcast origination points, and

receiving said requested content at said client computer system from said first or second broadcast origination points,

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising including in a digital broadcast transmission from said first and second broadcast origination points, a beacon signal identifying characteristics of said digital broadcast origination points.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said digital broadcast origination points broadcast digital television signals.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said digital television signals are in compliance with an Advanced Television Standards Committee (ATSC) format.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said requested content is inserted in place of null packets in said ATSC formatted digital television signal.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said host computer system comprises a server and a router in communication with said client and/or said server.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said connection between said host computer system and said client computer system is an IP virtual private networking connection between said server and said client computer system.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said first broadcast origination point comprises a terrestrial digital television transmission station.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said second broadcast origination point comprises a terrestrial digital television transmission station.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said host computer system is connected to said first broadcast origination point via a wireless microwave transmission link.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said host computer system is connected to said first broadcast origination point via a wired transmission link.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said first broadcast origination point comprises a digital broadcast satellite transponder.

13. A method for providing Internet access to a client computer system, comprising:

providing a terrestrial digital television broadcast system for wireless delivery of digital television signals to said client computer system,

5 providing a host computer system connected to said terrestrial digital television broadcast transmission system,

establishing a connection between said host computer system and said client computer system,

delivering a request for content from said client computer system to said host computer system,

10 obtaining delivery of requested content via the public Internet to said host computer system,

transferring said requested content to said terrestrial digital television broadcast system,

15 receiving said requested content at said client computer system from said digital television signals from said terrestrial digital television broadcast system.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising including in said digital television signals from said terrestrial digital television broadcast

system, a beacon signal identifying characteristics of said digital television signals.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said digital television signals are in compliance with an Advanced Television Standards Committee (ATSC) format.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said requested content is inserted in place of null packets in said ATSC formatted digital television signal.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein said host computer system comprises a server and a router controlled by said server.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said connection between said host computer system and said client computer system is an IP virtual private networking connection between said server and said client computer system.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein said host computer system is connected to said first broadcast origination point via a wireless microwave transmission link.

20. The method of claim 13 wherein said host computer system is connected to said first broadcast origination point via a wired transmission link.